

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 085996  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MR. DRAPER  
A:MR. CONDAYAN  
S/S-O:LMACFARLANE  
NEA:MR. ABINGTON  
-----160248Z 103291 /73  
P 160216Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085996

EXDIS

FOL RPT DAMASCUS 2385 ACTION SECSTATE 14 APR 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2385

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SY, US, PFOR  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ASAD

REF: BERN 1551

1. SWISS AMBASSADOR TOLD ME APRIL 13 THAT HE HAS BEEN IN  
TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDY CONCERNING  
ASAD'S TRAVEL TO GENEVA MAY 9. HE TOLD DAOUDY  
THAT RECEPTION WOULD BE INFORMAL AS SWISS GOVERNMENT'S ROLE  
WAS ONE OF OFFERING FACILITIES AND GOOD OFFICES TO BOTH  
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PARTIES. HE RECOMMENDED SYRIANS CONSIDER RESERVING HOTEL  
ACCOMMODATIONS AND ALSO DISCUSSED SYRIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR  
VEHICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. HE STRESSED THAT  
SWISS WISHED TO OFFER SAME TREATMENT TO BOTH PARTIES.  
HE ALSO TOLD DAOUDY IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT TALKS  
WOULD BE HELD AT VILLA DE SAUGY IN GENTHOD, 4 KILOMETERS  
FROM GENEVA AND WOULD BEGIN AT 1500 MAY 9 AND CONCLUDE

THAT EVENING, BUT FINAL DECISION ON PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING WOULD BE MADE BY PARTIES.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID DAOUDY HAS INFORMED HIM THAT ASAD WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN OVERNIGHT IN GENEVA AND WOULD FOR SECURITY REASONS PREFER VILLA TO HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. SYRIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEND ADVANCE TEAM OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRESIDENCY PROTOCOL AND SECURITY REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. DAOUDY ALSO WISHED TO KNOW DETAILS OF SWISS PROTOCOL AND RECEPTION WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN PRESIDENT ASAD.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID HE AND DAOUDY HAD ALSO TALKED IN PRELIMINARY WAY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SWISS-SYRIAN TALKS MORNING MAY 10 AND OF SWISS OFFERING LUNCHEON FOR ASAD MAY 10, BUT NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED. DAOUDY COULD GIVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING COMPOSITION OF ASAD'S PARTY.

4. SWISS AMBASSADOR ANTICIPATES PROBLEMS IN BRINGING HOME TO SYRIANS THAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PAY THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATIONS AND OTHER EXPENSES. HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL THEM THAT WE HAVE AGREED ASSUME SUCH EXPENSES ON US SIDE.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS BERN.  
PELLETREAU  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ASAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, US, (ASAD, HAFIZ AL)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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